

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for inhibiting Ig production in a sample of ex vivo peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) comprising adding an inhibitory composition to said population.

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2. A method for treating an autoimmune disorder in a patient comprising:
a) removing peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from said patient;
b) treating said cells with an inhibitory composition for a time sufficient to suppress Ig production; and
c) reintroducing said cells to said patient.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said inhibitory composition comprises IL-2.

4. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said inhibitory composition comprises a mixture of IL-2 and TGF- β .

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5. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said inhibitory composition comprises a CD2 activator.

6. A method according to claim 2 wherein said autoimmune disorder is systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

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7. A kit for the treatment of an autoimmune disorder in a patient comprising:
a) a cell treatment container adapted to receive cells from a patient with an antibody-mediated autoimmune disorder; and
b) at least one dose of an inhibitory composition.

8. A kit according to claim 7 further comprising written instructions for the method of treating.

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9. A kit according to claim 7 wherein said dose is contained within said cell treatment container.

10. A kit according to claim 7 wherein said dose is in a lyophilized form.

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12. A kit according to claim 7 wherein said cell treatment container further comprises a sampling port to enable the removal of a fraction of said cells for analysis.

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13. A kit according to claim 7 further comprising an exit port adapted to enable transport at least a portion of said cells to said patient.

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